INFORMATIVE LETTER

1053 Bass Boulevard
Dunedin, Florida
August 31, 1961

Dear Mr. Monroe,

Each time I receive my copy of the Seed Pod, I feel that I should write a thank you note. It is constantly improving and I fully realize that you and other members are spending a great deal of time in preparing a splendid magazine for me, all I do is pay my dues, but I do try to do that promptly. Please pass my thanks on to all who have helped you.

A Hibiscus friend in another state wrote asking me how far apart I planted my Hibiscus. As I was planning some new beds I had already been considering spacing and when I answered him, I wrote something like this.

It seems to me that one should consider, (A) Growth habits of a variety, (B) Purpose of a planting, (C) Pruning habits of a grower.

(A) Floribunda, Brilliant, Mary Morgan, and many others grow vigorously in all directions. If planted as specimens and unpruned, will in a few years spread over a ten-foot circle. There are many lovely varieties that will never spread more than 2½ feet. The Dainties will grow tall but have little spread.

(B) Because I like my hedges to be dog-proof, I plant them about eight or ten inches apart. In my beds-for-beauty near the house, I have planted so close that there is a struggle between the vigorous growers and I have had to move several weaker growers to a place where they will have a chance. I have a large back yard and most Hibiscus in it are 3 to 4 feet apart. In one corner of my front yard I keep a clump of Kona, a wonderful double pink even if it is an oldie. Although grafted high my Konas keep dying off. I always keep young Konas in reserve and when I replace the casualities that I have every year, I set

the plants from 12 to 18 inches apart.

(C) Many Florida Hibiscus growers prune severely every spring. I like the natural shapes of plants and only prune to slightly modify those shapes. When starting hedges, I prune severely to make them thick.

Perhaps I should have included another.

(D) Amount of space available. But does any gardener have enough room? I would like to hear from others on spacing Hibiscus.

Sincerely,
Mrs. O. S. Gladding

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2216 Anderson Avenue Fort Myers, Florida
Kilgore's Bred-Rite Seeds,
Kilgore's Insecticides
and V. C. Fertilizers
See us for your Hibiscus and Orchid Supplies
COMPLETE GARDENING EQUIPMENT

ON THE SQUARE

It matters not what e're your lot
Or what your task may be.
One day still remains for you
One duty stands for me.
Be you a doctor, skilled and wise,
Or an artist on the stage;
A laborer working on the street
Or a man who works for wage.
One glory still awaits you,
One honor that is rare;
To have men say as you pass by-
That fellow's on the square.